

**CONTENT DELIVERY NETWORK (CDN) CONTENT SERVER REQUEST
HANDLING MECHANISM WITH METADATA FRAMEWORK SUPPORT****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 To serve content through a content delivery network (CDN), the CDN must have
some information about the identity, characteristics and state of its target objects. Such
additional information is provided in the form of object metadata, which according to the
invention can be located in the request string itself, in the response headers from the
10 origin server, in a metadata configuration file distributed to CDN servers, or in a per-
customer metadata configuration file. CDN content servers execute a request
identification and parsing process to locate object metadata and to handle the request in
accordance therewith. Where different types of metadata exist for a particular object,
metadata in a configuration file is overridden by metadata in a response header or request
15 string, with metadata in the request string taking precedence.